

THE NATIONAL ERA.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 18, 1850.

LITERARY NOTICES.

SUGARINE REVELATIONS, EXPLANATIONS, &c., of the Commissary with Spirits in Western New York. Finn & Rockwell, Auburn. 1850. Pp. 51.

It is interesting to observe that all record intelligence from the spiritual world takes the coloring of the opinions of the time. Cases which occur to us by way of contrast, are those of Karl Martel the Frank, of a seafaror Frisian chief who refused baptism, and of Haile's father—all of whom were seen or heard of in chains and fire. We esteem it fortunate for the departed spirits of the present day, that they live in an age when such horrors as these are obsolete. Their revelations do not shock us all, and are at best mildly exciting to a rational curiosity. Their general views are those of Swedenborg and the Poughkeepsie Seer. The present account is more curious and circumstantial than any that we remember to have seen.

THE WATER-CURE MANUAL. By Joel Shaw, M. D. The PHYSIOLOGY OF DIETATION. By Andrew Combe, M. D. 10th edition.

Siamese Manual for Magnetizing. Fowler & Wells, New York. 1850.

There has seemed to us something morbidly subjective or introspective (reminding one of Carlyle's "navel-saints") in many of the popular treatises on physiology. The days are past when a vigorous man could live in blissful ignorance that he "had a system." To such as will follow this line of investigation, we strenuously recommend the Water Cure Manual. The element it deals in is less likely to do mischief than any other; and, in happy unconsciousness of itself of any subjective medical experiments, we are apt to think, that between the jolly title-page of this "Manual," and its still more cheerful contents, backed by a fair share of second-hand knowledge of our own, we should be safe to hydrotherapy for deliverance from almost any of the severer natural shocks that flesh is heir to?

Combe's Treatise, tenth edition, need no recommendation from us, save to state its price, which is twenty-five cents.

That the relations subsisting between electrical forces and the human organization, will eventually affect the practice of the healing art, there seems little reason to doubt. The present is a veritable "Manual," or medical and clinical library in small, based on that idea. We are of course incompetent to pronounce on its merits, and only hope its apparent method and facility may not work mischief in the hands of bungies.

The Devil is doing all he can to dramatize the four elements!—caved and swore Brutus Lion, who at four o'clock in the morning had jumped out of bed, with a bound that shook the house, and the rocks on which the house was founded, too! and dashed open the window blinds with a blow of his fist, to look out upon the weather.

"And what a day was it?" said February, 18—!

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"I should like to see you try—wonder how you would accomplish it?"

"By Strength! Brutus! God bless you, Brutus, look at me! I am strong! I could subdue, bind, and lay at your feet, the strongest beef-beef man in the world!—but you yourself, Brutus!—by mere muscular force!"

"Break my necks impossible!" There is not a horse in the wide world could throw me, and not a fall on earth from which I have not the agility to recover myself. I could subdue, bind, and lay at your feet, the strongest beef-beef man in the world!—but you yourself, Brutus!—by mere muscular force!"

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the United States, and ought to be resisted at every hazard, and to any extremity.
Resolved, That the Governor be requested to appoint — number of delegates to meet at Nashville in Southern convention, in June next.

THE NATIONAL ERA.
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 21, 1850.

DEBATE IN CONGRESS.—We have no room this week for notices of the speeches of Messrs. Fitch, Root, and Mann, in reply to the numerous speakers in support of the claims of Slavery. We shall attend to them in our next.

THE CRISIS.—May we not our friends to review their exertion for the extension of the circulation of the *Era* in this important crisis. Never before was it so vital to have the public correctly and fully informed of the movements in Congress. Of the four political papers issued in this place, the *Era* is the only one which presents and advocates the views and claims of the non-slaveholders of the country on this great question of Slavery.

NO. 155 OF THE ERA.—Those subscribers who do not file their *Era*, and have copies of No. 155 on hand, will confer a favor by remitting them to this office.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

WILLIAM W. WOODWORTH, administrator of William W. Woodworth, deceased, is now petitioning Congress to extend his Patent for a Pinwheel, for a period of ten years. All rights reserved. The monopoly and the benefits of the REPEATED EXTENSIONS of that Patent, are reserved to forward their remonstrances against the same to their respective Senators and Representatives in Congress, without any delay.

DEBATE IN THE SENATE ON THE 11TH.

THE RIGHT OF PETITION—THE DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION.

We present on our fourth page some account of the Debate in the Senate on the 11th of February, on the question of receiving a petition offered by Mr. Hale on a former day, in relation to a dissolution of the Union, but to propose some plan for its dissolution, evidently under the impression that such a movement was within its constitutional powers. Is this impression correct?

Article 5th of the Constitution provides as follows:

"Congress, whenever two-thirds of either House shall direct, shall propose to the Legislature, or, on the adjournment of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing amendments, which in either case shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as parts of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Convention in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by Congress; provided, that no amendment which may be proposed in the year 1808 shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no State, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate."

The signers to this petition have doubtless noticed that in the proceedings of Legislative bodies it is common for a member to move to amend a bill or resolution, by striking out all after the enacting clause, or the word resolved, and inserting a substitute; and, observing that, by the Constitution, Congress, by a majority of two-thirds in each House, is empowered to propose amendments thereto, they may have inferred that it could propose to amend by submitting a substitute, contemplating, for example, the formation of two separate Unions.

No Senator adverted to this possibility, none seemed to think of inquiring how far Congress could go in proposing amendments. All who opposed the reception of the petition assumed that it prayed Congress to abolish the Union—a thing so manifestly and wholly beyond its power, that it was right to reject the paper at once. This was the assumption made by Messrs. Davis and Webster of Massachusetts—an assumption utterly groundless, as the petition asked simply that Congress would propose a plan of dissolution. Is this manifestly and wholly beyond its power? It is a question with two sides—it admits of argument. The language of the article respecting amendments, quoted above, raises a presumption, at least, that Congress by the requisite majorities, is competent to submit such a proposal.

The *Raleigh (N. C.) Register* asks—

"What, then, is the Convention to be called for? Why do not the several individuals who support the movement tell us what is to be object? Unhappily satisfied on this point, the State should hesitate a long time before committing itself, by the hands of a few men, to abide whatever course they may think proper to adopt?"

The *Brethren (N. C.) Register* says—

"If dissolution is not aimed at, we are not clearly told what is to be done for the Constitution. It affects no mere personal unit, but consists of a union that exists at present, and could not exist Southern sentiment more strongly than it has already been done by the Legislatures of most of the Southern States."

"If dissolution is the object of the Convention, we submit that the State of North Carolina will hardly be committed to the project by a set of irresponsible delegates. They must be clothed with more authority and go under more solemn names—names that can be conferred by the usual hasty process of court-house and cross-roads meetings."

The *National Intelligencer*, which is laboring manfully for the preservation of the Union, contains, in its edition of the 16th, extracts from twenty-three prominent Southern newspapers, in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri, expressing the most decided attachment to the Union, and hostility to Southern influences.

These are mere specimens of the reckless statements which are common in the Halls of Congress, that they have ceased to excite the surprise of the experienced members of that body.

PEACE, TRADE, SOCIAL CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DIVIDED STATES.

THEIR ABILITY TO RESIST FOREIGN AGGRESSION.

THE AMOUNT AND COST AND RESULTS OF THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS THAT WOULD THEN BECOME NECESSARY.

THE AUGMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE POWER AT THE EXPENSE OF POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED IN THE NEW GOVERNMENTS.

THE DISPOSITION OF THE TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE EXTRADITION OF FUGITIVES FROM SERVICE OR LABOR.

THE PERMANENCE OF SLAVERY.

THE QUESTION OF THE NAVIGATION OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS.

IT MIGHT NOT BE AMISS TO EXTEND THEIR INQUIRIES A LITTLE FURTHER, AND ASK, HOW THE QUESTION OF THE ANNEXATION OF THE CANADAS TO THE NORTHERN CONFEDERACY, AND ITS RELATIONS TO THE FREE BRITISH WEST INDIES, WOULD BE AFFECTED; AND HOW, ON THE OTHER HAND, AN ATTEMPTED ANNEXATION OF CUBA BY THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY, WITHOUT ANY NAVAL POWER, WOULD BE VIEWED BY GREAT BRITAIN.

WE REPEAT, IT WOULD GRATE US EXCUSINGLY TO ASK ALL THESE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FULLY AND COMPLETELY BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ABLEST STATESMEN OF THE SOUTH, APPPOINTED BY THE NASHVILLE CONVENTION. THEIR REPORT, WE HAVE NO DOUBT, WOULD DO MORE TO SETTLE THE AGITATION IN THE SOUTH IN REGARD TO THE UNION, THAN INDIGNANT SENATORIAL DENUNCIATIONS OF THE SCHEMES OF DISSENSSION, AND PATRIOTIC SENATORIAL REJECTIONS OF PETITIONS FOR DISSOLUTION.

THE VERY BEST THING THAT CAN BE DONE TO PRETEND THE UNION IS COOLLY AND CAREFULLY TO CALCULATE ITS VALUE.

BLUNDERS.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DO NOT ALWAYS SPEAK BY THE BOOK. WE HAVE SOMETIMES WONDERED AT THE COOLNESS WITH WHICH THEY MAKE THE MOST UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS.

MR. ALBION OF ALABAMA, A FEW DAYS SINCE, WHILE SPECULATING ON THE ADVANTAGES TO THE SOUTH OF A DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION, FELL INTO SEVERAL GREAT BLUNDERS.

"OUR EXPORTS," HE SAYS, "ARE NOW ABOUT DOUBLE THOSE OF THE NORTH."

THE FOLLOWING TABLE FROM OFFICIAL RETURNS WILL SHOW THE VALUE OF EXPORTS FROM THE FREE STATES AND SLAVE STATES IN THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1848:

DAM. PRODUC. FAM. PRODUC. TOTAL.

FREE STATES \$36,727,716 \$19,387,725 \$76,115,441

SLAVE STATES 76,176,405 1,744,500 77,920,905

IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTS, THE TWO SECTIONS ARE NEARLY EQUAL. AS IT REGARDS THE EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC PRODUCE, MORE THAN TWO-FIFTHS IS FROM THE FREE STATES, LESS THAN THREE-FIFTHS FROM THE SLAVE STATES.

IT IS A PERPETUAL DEGRADATION TO THE NORTH, SHOULD IT SUFFER ITSELF TO BE DRIVEN OUT OF THE FREE SOIL; IT WILL BE A PERPETUAL DEGRADATION TO THE SOUTH, SHOULD IT SUFFER ITSELF TO BE DRIVEN OUT OF THE UNION.

WE HOPE THE PEOPLE WILL OBSERVE THE POSITION OF THESE GENTLEMEN, AND OF THE OTHER SENATORS FROM THE FREE STATES. THEY DO NOT WANT A DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION, BUT THEY KNOW THAT THE BEST WAY TO STRENGTHEN THE POPULAR FEELING AGAINST IT, IS TO OBSERVE SCRUPULOUSLY, AND, IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONSTITUTION, "THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS."

WE HOPE THE PEOPLE WILL OBSERVE THE POSITION OF MR. INGE, THE MEMBER FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WHO, IN THREE-FOURTHS OF THE FREE STATES, OR BY CONVENTION IN THREE-FOURTHS THEREOF, AS THE ONE OR THE OTHER MODE OF RATIFICATION, MAY BE PROPOSED BY CONGRESS; PROVIDED, THAT NO AMENDMENT WHICH MAY BE PROPOSED IN THE YEAR 1808 SHALL IN ANY MANNER AFFECT THE FIRST AND FOURTH CLAUSES IN THE NINTH SECTION OF THE FIRST ARTICLE; AND THAT NO STATE, WITHOUT ITS CONSENT, SHALL BE DEPRIVED OF ITS EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN THE SENATE."

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FACTIOUS PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE ON THE 18TH.

WAR AGAINST THE ADMISSION OF A NEW FREE STATE.

Large numbers of American citizens from all the States of this Union have settled in California, and in no country are the restraints of good government more imperatively demanded.

The determination of the pro-slavery men in Congress, that no Territorial Government should be established which did not tolerate slavery, having defeated all attempts by that body to provide a Government for California, our fellow-citizens there were driven by necessity to establish one for themselves.

Florida and Michigan, having organized State Constitutions without any prior act by Congress authorizing them to do so, and their action having received the subsequent sanction of that body, the people of California determined to follow their example.

In this they were encouraged by the military commandants in chief in their Territory, who held his appointment from the late Democratic Administration, and also by Thomas Butler King, the special agent of the present Whig Administration, who assured them, on the authority of the President, that there could be no doubt that Congress would favorably entertain their application for admission into the Union.

A Convention, in which all the People of the Territory were fairly represented, assembled. Its proceedings were decent and dignified, and the result was, a Constitution the greatest wisdom of which commanded the admiration of men of all parties and sects.

Proceeding on the assumption made by the Southern and Northern supporters of General Cass in the last Presidential election, that the People of a Territory, on organizing a State Constitution, have the right to settle the question of slavery for themselves, they settled this question, by prohibiting in their Constitution the existence of slavery or involuntary servitude, otherwise than as punishment for crime.

The People proceeded to elect their agents under the new Constitution. Messrs. Wright and Gilbert, emigrants from the Northern States of this Union, were chosen Representatives by the People; Messrs. Fremont and Gwin, emigrants from the Southern States, were chosen Senators, by the Legislature; they are now in Washington, awaiting the pleasure of Congress—and the President has submitted the Constitution of the new State to both Houses, notifying them of the fact of its organization, having already intimated to them in a previous message his approbation of the same.

What should hinder the immediate admission of the new State? What delay the passage of a bill by Congress giving validity to its Constitution?

All the People of the free States are anxious for it: many of the People of the South are anxious for it: a Slaveholding Administration is ready to sanction such an act: Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and other slaveholding States, have refused through their Legislatures to express any opposition to its admission.

Why, then, we ask, with a Constitution truly republican, should this new State, needing more than any other State, the benefits of regular Government, with her Representatives and Senators all ready to take their seats in Congress, with the voice of the American People in her favor, be left out of the Union, and, with a large population, rapidly accumulating, be exposed to all the perils of anarchy?

We ask the attention of every candid reader, North and South, to the report of proceedings in the House last Monday. That delay resolution, which falls on every other Monday, Mr. Doty offered a resolution, instructing the Committee on the Territories to report a bill for the admission of California into the Union, with her present boundaries and Constitution. On this he demanded the previous question, for, if he had not done so, any person choosing to announce his purpose to debate the resolution, it would have gone over, and not have been reached again during the session. It was not then to preclude debate on the subject, but to bring without delay a bill before the House, which might then be debated at length.

The slaveholding members determined to defeat this movement; and the explanation of their conduct is to be found in their avowed policy to prevent the admission of California, till they can force a settlement of the whole Slavery Question favorable to the interests of Slavery. Their great object is, to secure the free States the extension of the Missouri Compromiseline, 36° 30', to the Pacific ocean, with an express recognition that they may hold slaves below that line. This is Mr. Buchanan's plan of settlement, and encouraged by him, who is now every day in Congress, endeavoring to influence his friends, especially the members from Pennsylvania, they have resolved to keep the new State of California out of the Union, and prevent any decisive action on the part of the House even in preliminary matters, until the Senate shall have time to hatch the devious Compromise, and send it to the House.

With this key to their movements, read the condensed report of proceedings last Monday. The vote on the motion to lay Mr. Doty's resolution on the table showed a majority of FIFTY-ONE in favor of the admission of California. Such a result stamps a factious, miserably factious, all the subsequent proceedings of the minority to stop the progress of legislation. The demand of the previous question was seconded by a majority of twenty-six votes. As the vote on this was taken by tellers, several Northern members, being able to escape direct responsibility to their constituents, voted, say, among whom, we are informed, was J. M. THOMSON of Pennsylvania. As we were not present, we cannot say who were the other members from the free States, thus voting virtually against California.

The previous question being seconded, there were then but two or three privileged motions that could be entertained, but, by reference to the proceedings, it will be seen that the factious plotted these incessantly, demanding on every motion the yeas and nays, and as these must be ordered at the demand of one-fifth of the House, it was easy enough always to obtain them. The taking of the yeas and nays each time consumed about twenty minutes, but the time may be protracted by members declining to vote when their names are called, and then rising afterwards, to demand that they be recorded. Probably the roll was called not less than forty times in the session of Monday, and in this way and by raising points of order, the session was protracted until twelve o'clock at night, when the Speaker decided that Monday, the resolution day, had expired, the resolution of Mr. Doty went over under the rule.

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So, some seventy pro-slavery men have, by their grossly factious resistance, nullified the will of one hundred and twenty-one members in favor of legislating in the usual way for the admission of a new State—and, this they did, not because the majority of them were so instructed by their constituents, but because California has not a good Constitution, not so good a government, is not ready for admission into the Union, will not suffer from it, not because any right of any section or any State would be violated—but because California is a free State, and it is thought expedient to keep her out of the Union, until one half of the free territory acquired from Mexico can be converted into slave territory!

With the American People tolerate this policy? Through the efforts of Demagogues and Presidential aspirants here, calls have been issued in some of our Eastern cities, for meetings, to protest against the Wilmot Proviso, and maintain the Union. We would like to see what politicians in these meetings will be enough to approve of Monday's proceedings in relation to California. Let Northern traitors who voted in such a crisis as this, to hold up the hands of the Slave Extremists in their war against the

admission of a new free State be pointed out, and branded, that they may be withered by the scorn and indignation of an outraged community.

MR. MEACHAM OF VERMONT.

Was put down by mistake in our list of absentees on the vote to lay Mr. Doty's resolution on the table. We were led into this error by one of the daily papers; and we hasten to do justice to one who on this subject faithfully represents, we doubt not, his constituents.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-FIRST CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1850.

SENATE.
The petition presented on Tuesday by Mr. Hale, in relation to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, was referred, without debate, to the Committee on the Territories.

The Revenue Act, as amended by the House, provided that the sum of \$1,225,000, to defray the expenses of the last half of the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1850, and further providing that the Secretary should be directed to disburse the balance of the amount now levied on Government, on the best terms practicable, before the 1st of January next, was presented by Mr. Dickinson, from the Committee on Finance.

He said that the total amount as appropriated, plus the expense of postage, average, &c., would be \$1,376,250, that this was some two or three hundred thousand dollars less than the Secretary had asked for; but that a majority of the Committee on Finance were more than willing to allow such a sum, as it would allow no such dictation. He acknowledged no allegiance to the South. He owed allegiance to two Powers—the State and Kentucky and the Union.

Mr. Clay arose and replied very briefly. He said he had been often reminded that he was a Southern man and should protect Southern interests. He admitted such a thing, but he would allow no such dictation. He acknowledged no allegiance to the South. He owed allegiance to two Powers—the State and Kentucky and the Union.

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